Tel: (305) 375-1250

Fax: (305) 375-4120

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E-mail: consumer@miamidade.gov



Friday, July 5, 2002

CSD TO HOLD SMALL CLAIMS COURT CLINIC IN MIAMI SPRINGS THIS MONTH

The Miami-Dade County Consumer Services Department (CSD) holds another in its series of Small Claims Court Clinics next Tuesday evening, July 9, at the Council Chambers of the City of Miami Springs, 201 Westward Drive, beginning at seven o'clock

These clinics are held at venues across Miami-Dade to give residents an opportunity to hear a detailed explanation on how to use the Small Claims Court system to settle disputes with a value of \$5,000 or less.

At these clinics the County's Consumer Advocate, Leonard Elias, explains the Small Claims Court process in a step-by-step manner from preparing to file through to collecting on a judgment where the action is successful. He tells participants what to expect and also provides a packet of sample legal forms.

The Small Claims Court Clinics are free and open to the public. Reservations are not required.

Persons requiring directions to the Miami Springs Council Chambers at 201 Westward Drive should call (305) 885-4581. For other information about the Small Claims Court Clinics please call the Miami-Dade County Consumer Hotline at (305) 375-3677.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:



Patrick Smikle, Public Information Officer; (305) 375-5745;

Email: smiklep@miamidade.gov

Leonard Elias, Consumer Advocate; (305) 375-4199; Email: <u>le28@miamidade.gov</u> Cathy Grimes Peel, Deputy Director, CSD; (305) 375-4666; Email: <u>cpeel@miamidade.gov</u>

The Miami Dade Consumer Services Department is an agency of Miami-Dade County government that protects consumers through complaint mediation, business regulation, and consumer education. The Department operates the Consumer Hotline (305) 375-3677, a central telephone number for consumer complaints and information.